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UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM

UNITED NATIONS PENSION SYSTEM

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Shamel NASSER (Egypt)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda items 127 and 128 appear in the Committee's reports (A/45/889 and A/45/880, respectively).

2. The Fifth Committee further considered the items at its 63rd and 64th meetings, on 26 and 27 June 1991. It had before it notes by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, transmitting the text of notes by the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on the subject of the United Nations common system (A/C.5/45/76) and of the United Nations pension system (A/C.5/45/77).

3. The comments and observations made in the course of the Committee's further consideration of these items are reflected in the relevant summary records (see A/C.5/45/SR.63 and 64).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/45/L.33

4. At the 64th meeting, on 27 June 1991, the Chairman of the Committee introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/45/L.33) and orally revised it as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 1, the word "unilaterally" should be inserted after the words "the actions taken";

(b) Operative paragraph 4 should read:

"4. Requests the Commission and the Board to examine the basis for the decisions taken by the International Telecommunication Union and the International Labour Organisation and their implications for the common system, within the context of their respective relevant work programmes, and report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;".

5. At the same meeting, the Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.33, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 7).

6. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a statement in explanation of position.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations common system and United Nations pension system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3357 (XXIX) of 18 December 1974, by which it approved the statute of the International Civil Service Commission,

Recalling the importance of ensuring that the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations common system take common positions with regard to matters of concern for the system,

Reaffirming the central role of the International Civil Service Commission in the regulation and coordination of conditions of service, including pensionable remuneration of all graded and ungraded staff of the United Nations common system, and the mandate of the Commission relating to the establishment of conditions of entitlement to benefits under article 11 of its Statute,

Recalling section IV of its resolution 44/199 of 21 December 1989, by which it endorsed the conclusions of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board as set out in paragraphs 115 and 116 of its report, 1/ that the proposal of the International Telecommunication Union should be studied as one possible long-term approach to the adjustment of pensions in local currency terms and

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 9 (A/44/9).

that the International Telecommunication Union should not proceed with the implementation of its proposal as that would weaken the United Nations common system,

Noting that, in accordance with its resolution 45/242 of 21 December 1990, the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board has given priority to the development of a long-term approach to the determination of the initial local currency pensions in order to submit recommendations on appropriate changes in the pension adjustment system to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session,

Concerned about the potential impact on the United Nations common system and the United Nations pension system of the decision of the International Labour Conference at its seventy-eighth session to proceed with its proposal to establish a voluntary thrift benefit fund and of the decision of the Administrative Council of the International Telecommunication Union at its forty-sixth session to implement unilaterally a pension purchasing power protection insurance plan, as well as the decision of the Secretary-General of the Union to grant a special post allowance to Headquarters staff at the Professional and Director levels,

Taking account of the statements made in the Fifth Committee at its 63rd meeting, on 26 June 1991, 2/

1. Expresses deep concern and regret at the actions unilaterally taken by the International Telecommunication Union and the International Labour Organisation without due regard for their obligations under the common system;

2. Reaffirms that the conditions of service of the staff in the United Nations common system should be determined in accordance with principles aimed at the development of a single unified international civil service through the application of common personnel standards, methods and arrangements;

3. Emphasizes the obligations of all organizations of the common system to consult and cooperate fully with the International Civil Service Commission and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board on matters relating to conditions of service and pensions;

4. Requests the Commission and the Board to examine the basis for the decisions taken by the International Telecommunication Union and the International Labour Organisation and their implications for the common system, within the context of their respective relevant work programmes, and report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

5. Reiterates its request for the International Civil Service Commission and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to place the

highest priority on ensuring that the reports requested in General Assembly resolution 45/241 on the United Nations common system and General Assembly resolution 45/242 on the United Nations pension system are available for full consideration by the Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

6. Reiterates its appeal to the organizations of the United Nations common system to refrain from seeking to establish for their staff, whether by provisions in their staff regulations or by other means, additional entitlement and benefits, as such actions would be detrimental to the common system under which all staff should receive equal treatment, irrespective of their employing organizations;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to urge all Executive Heads to cooperate fully with the International Civil Service Commission in the discharge of its responsibilities under article 1 of its statute.
